

EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



Handbook
M.A. English Literatures and Cultures

Winter Semester 2015/2016

FACULTY of HUMANITIES
English Department



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1. Objectives of the Program

The M.A. in English Literatures and Cultures is a consecutive and research-oriented program of study following up on B.A. degrees in English and American studies or other disciplines in literary or cultural studies. It is dedicated to the Anglophone literatures and cultures of the world and focuses on academic procedures of systematic knowledge acquisition. Of particular interest is the role literature has played across a range of cultural contexts throughout history, both in terms of its functions and achievements. Literature is therefore viewed as an integral part of modern culture and its increasing globalization. More recent developments, built on the concept of 'literary studies as a form of media studies and cultural studies', form the basis for exploring the relationship between literary texts and other types of text and media, thus creating a productive link between literary and cultural studies.

The core curriculum focuses on literary and cultural studies but the program also contains an interdisciplinary profile module. The students also complete modules dedicated to the foundations of scholarly research and writing, and to professional experience.

The ability to critically analyze and reflect on texts of any kind is the core principle underlying the teaching and learning in the program. Graduates of the M.A. in English Literatures and Cultures are qualified for professional careers outside and inside academia. They have gained a profound understanding of the interaction between literary, cultural and media-related processes in an increasingly globalized world from the early modern age to the present. They are able to critically reflect on and evaluate cultural phenomena and the scholarly discourses devoted to it. They are furthermore capable of presenting their ideas in oral and written form according to scholarly conventions. The M.A. English Literatures and Cultures first and foremost prepares students for a PhD in the field. Beyond that, students have gained professional experience and know how the skills they have acquired can be made use of outside of academia. Outside of academia, a Master's degree in English Literatures and Cultures prepares students for jobs predominantly (but not exclusively) in the areas of public relations, adult education, intercultural communication, and similar career fields where a strong background in communicative and intercultural skills, in addition to excellent foreign language skills, plays a crucial role. The language proficiency of graduates of the M.A. programme has developed beyond the C 1 level in the area of academic discourse, such as listening and reading for information, orientation, and argument; understanding and discussing scholarly presentations by others, and producing written and oral presentations of original research according to academic conventions of their field.

2. Course of Studies

2.1 Overview: Modules

(corresponds to the overview of modules included in the study and examination regulations)

Module number	Obligatory/ Elective	Module Title	Recommended Semester	CP
ELC-MA 01	O	Literary and Cultural Theory*	01	12
ELC-MA 02	O	Literature and Culture*	01	12
ELC-MA 03	O	Literary History*	02	12
ELC-MA 04	O	Culture and the Media*	02	12
ELC-MA 05	O	Interdisciplinary Profile	01 or 02	12
ELC-MA 06	O	Research I: Methodology	03	12
ELC-MA 07	O	Research II: Academic Writing	03	6
ELC-MA 08	O	Professional Experience	03	12
ELC-MA 09	O	Master Thesis and Oral Exam	04	30

* Two of the modules ELC1-ELC4 have to be finished with a term paper and a work group component. The remaining two have to be finished with an oral exam and contain a lecture course. The sequence of modules ELC1-ELC4 can be modified.

2.2 Overview: Course of Studies

Semester	CP	Core Curriculum		Interdisciplinary Profile	Research		Professional Experience
1	30	ELC-MA 01* (12 CP)	ELC-MA 02* (12 CP)	ELC-MA 05 (6 CP)	---		---
2	30	ELC-MA 03* (12 CP)	ELC-MA 04* (12 CP)	ELC-MA 05 (6 CP)	---		---
3	30	---		---	ELC-MA 06 (12 CP)	ELC-MA 07 (6 CP)	ELC-MA 08 (12 CP)
4	30	ELC-MA 09 (30 CP)		---	---		---

* Two of the modules ELC1-ELC4 have to be finished with a term paper and a work group component. The remaining two have to be finished with an oral exam and contain a lecture course. The sequence of modules ELC1-ELC4 can be modified.

3. Module Descriptions

3.1. Core Curriculum

Number: ELC-MA 01	Module Title: Literary and Cultural Theory				Type of Module: Obligatory				
Note: Two of the modules ELC-MA-01 – ELC-MA-04 have to be finished with a term paper and a work group component. The remaining two have to be finished with an oral exam and contain a lecture course. The sequence of modules ELC-MA-01 – ELC-MA-04 can be modified.									
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h		
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture - Seminar (e.g. presentations, group work, reading commentaries) - Normally, the oral exam, covering both the lecture and the seminar, is conducted by the instructor of the seminar. 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that focuses on a specific aspect of literary and/or cultural theory, and a lecture that addresses larger developments in literary and/or cultural history. The classes provide an in-depth analysis of individual theoretical positions or schools against the background of larger social, cultural and political developments. They also discuss different scholarly positions that emerge from the broader theoretical framework								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about specific positions in literary and/or cultural theory, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion of this aspect. They are able to analyze and contextualize literary or cultural texts in the light of these positions. They are also familiar with some of the larger developments in cultural history, and are able to see connections and/or differences to the specific aspect they have focused on. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing secondary literature.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on Literary and/or Cultural Theory</i>	S	O	2	9	OE	30	g	100
	<i>Lecture on Literary and/or Cultural Theory</i>	L	O	2	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ELC-MA-06/07/09 - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: ELC-MA 02	Module Title: Literature and Culture		Type of Module: Obligatory						
Note: Two of the modules ELC1-ELC4 have to be finished with a term paper and a work group component. The remaining two have to be finished with an oral exam and contain a lecture course. The sequence of modules ELC1-ELC4 can be modified.									
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH	Self-Study: 330 h						
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class/ Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar with workgroup - course work (presentations, workgroup presentations) for the seminar is at the discretion of the instructor. - In the workgroups, small groups of students, under the supervision of the instructor, explore different dimensions of the topic of the class in further detail. - Workgroups are completed with a collective study performance such as a website, an exhibition, a map, or an annotated bibliography 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that focuses on a specific aspect of Anglophone literature or culture. The class provides an in-depth analysis of authors, genres, media, periods, and/or regions against the background of larger social, cultural and political developments. It also discusses different scholarly positions.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect Anglophone literature or culture, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion of this aspect. They are able to analyze and contextualize literary or cultural texts related to this aspect. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing secondary literature. In their workgroup, they have explored one dimension of the class in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on Anglophone Literature and/or Culture</i>	S	O	2	9	TP	n/a	g	100
	<i>Workgroup Accompanying the Seminar</i>	WG	O	n/a	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ELC-MA-06/07/09 - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaruren, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation*	None								

Number: ELC-MA 03	Module Title: Literary History				Type of Module: Obligatory				
Note: Two of the modules ELC1-ELC4 have to be finished with a term paper and a work group component. The remaining two have to be finished with an oral exam and contain a lecture course. The sequence of modules ELC1-ELC4 can be modified.									
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h		
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar and lecture - course work for the seminar (e.g., a presentation) is at the discretion of the instructor. - Normally, the oral exam, covering both the lecture and the seminar, is conducted by the instructor of the seminar. 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that addresses the history of literature in the Anglophone world through a focus on specific authors, genres, media, periods, and/or regions against the background of larger social, cultural and political developments and a lecture that addresses larger developments in literary and/or cultural history.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect of literary history in the Anglophone world and are able to contextualize this knowledge both culturally and in terms of theoretical positions. They are acquainted with the most widely used categories of periodization from the early modern age to the present and with the debates surrounding the modes of writing literary history. They have acquired detailed knowledge of one (or more) of these periods.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on Anglophone Literary History</i>	S	O	2	9	OE	30	g	100
	<i>Lecture on Anglophone Literary History</i>	L	O	2	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ELC-MA-06/07/09 - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: ELC-MA 04	Module Title: Culture and the Media				Type of Module: Obligatory				
Note: Two of the modules ELC1-ELC4 have to be finished with a term paper and a work group component. The remaining two have to be finished with an oral exam and contain a lecture course. The sequence of modules ELC1-ELC4 can be modified.									
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH			Self-Study: 330 h		
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar with workgroup - Course work for the seminar (e.g., a presentation) is at the discretion of the instructor. - In the workgroups, small groups of students, under the supervision of the instructor, explore different dimensions of the topic of the class in further detail. - Workgroups are completed with a collective study performance such as a website, an exhibition, a map, or an annotated bibliography 								
Content	The students attend a seminar that focuses on a specific aspect of culture and/or the media in the Anglophone world. The class provides an in-depth analysis of authors, genres, media, periods, and/or regions against the background of larger social, cultural and political developments. It also discusses different scholarly positions.								
Objectives	The students possess detailed knowledge about a specific aspect of Anglophone culture and/or media use, and are familiar with the scholarly discussion of this aspect. They are able to analyze and contextualize cultural texts related to this aspect. They are also able to critically evaluate the existing secondary literature. In their workgroup, they have explored one dimension of the class in further detail. They are capable of relating the results of their workgroup to the overall topic of the class, and to present them in an appropriate and accessible fashion.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>HWS</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar on Culture and/or the Media in the Anglophone World</i>	S	O	2	9	TP	n/a	g	100
	<i>Workgroup Accompanying the Seminar</i>	WG	O	n/a	3				
Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ELC-MA-06/07/09 - Components of this module can be used in the following programs: M.A. Internationale Literaturen, M.A. Literatur- und Kulturtheorie 								
Requirements for Participation	None								

Number: ELC-MA 09	Module Title: Master Thesis and Oral Exam				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	30								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 900 h	Class Time: 0 h / 0 CH			Self-Study: 900 h				
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	- M.A. thesis - oral exam								
Content	The students write a thesis of c. 80 pages in which they explore a specific aspect of Anglophone literatures and cultures in detail. For the oral exam they prepare three special topics in the field of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures beyond the thesis.								
Objectives	The students are able to conduct a larger research project and to present the results in an appropriate and accessible fashion. They analyze a body of primary material independently, albeit under the supervision of an adviser. They critically evaluate secondary sources and situate their project within current scholarly discourses. In the oral exam they demonstrate that they have acquired general knowledge (cultural and literary history, theory) and can critically discuss three special topics of their choice against this background.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade (Weighted)	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Thesis</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>WE</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>20</i>
	<i>Oral Exam</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>OE</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>10</i>
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of ELC-MA 01-04, 06 and 07.								

3.2. Interdisciplinary Profile

Number: ELC-MA 05	Module Title: Interdisciplinary Profile				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 60 h / 4 CH			Self-Study: 300 h				
Duration	2 semesters								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English, German, French								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two seminars from other disciplines - If they so choose, students can attend one seminar and two lecture courses - If they have not done them before, either Translation II or Written Communication II can constitute one of the two seminars - Required coursework is at the discretion of the instructors of the seminar/lectures. 								
Content	The students attend classes (seminars or lectures) on culture, history or society or on theoretical considerations relevant for the program offered by other departments.								
Objectives	The students broaden their disciplinary perspective by looking beyond the Anglophone world. They are also able to discuss and evaluate different disciplinary approaches.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Seminar Outside the Core Curriculum</i>	S	O	2	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Seminar Outside the Core Curriculum</i>	S	O	2	6				
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	None								

3.3. Research

Number: ELC-MA 06	Module Title: Research I: Methodology				Type of Module: Obligatory				
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h			Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH		Self-Study: 330 h			
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English, German, French								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research colloquium and research project - Coursework: presentation of the project + portfolio Independent Studies 								
Content	<p>The students attend a research colloquium where they discuss their ideas for their MA theses. They develop a research project which they present to and discuss with the class. In parallel the students pursue Independent Studies in an academic fashion under the supervision of a professor, e.g. the prospective supervisor of their thesis.</p> <p>In their Independent Studies, the students practice strategies of information retrieval and organization through research into an area of their interest.</p>								
Objectives	<p>The students are able to develop a research project and situate it within current scholarly debates. They are capable of presenting the project in an appropriate manner and to react appropriately to the feedback of peers and faculty. They are also able to understand and provide feedback on other students' projects.</p> <p>In their Independent Studies, the students learn how to structure a research project and how to retrieve, organize and document information from available archives.</p>								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Research Colloquium</i>	S	O	2	6	n/a	n/a	ne	0
	<i>Independent Studies</i>	n/a	O	0	6				
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules ELC-MA 01 to ELC-MA 04								

Number: ELC-MA 07	Module Title: Research II: Academic Writing		Type of Module: Obligatory						
CP	6								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 180 h	Class Time: 30 h / 2 CH	Self-Study: 150 h						
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special M.A. course on Academic Writing in English - Coursework: completion of numerous practical exercises 								
Content	The students attend a practical class on Academic Writing in English. They analyze examples of literary and cultural criticism as well as linguistics and perform a variety of writing exercises.								
Objectives	The students know the conventions of scholarly writing. They recognize different writing strategies and styles are capable of identifying the different elements of scholarly texts. They can also design and structure their own texts according to scholarly conventions.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Academic Writing</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
Transfer	M.A. American Studies, M.A. English Linguistics								
Requirements for Participation	Successful completion of two of the modules ELC-MA 01 to ELC-MA 04								

3.4. Professional Experience

Number: ELC-MA 08	Module Title: Professional Experience		Type of Module: Obligatory						
CP	12								
Work Load - Class Time - Self-Study	Workload: 360 h	Class Time: 0 h / 0 CH	Self-Study: 360 h						
Duration	1 semester								
Frequency	Each semester								
Language of Instruction	English								
Types of Class / Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internship of at least six weeks - Students can also teach a tutorial for one semester instead if they so choose and are found suitable by the faculty - Other academic activities (conference organization, desktop editing etc.) - Required coursework: report of at least 1,500 words 								
Content	The students gain practical experience by doing an internship with a company or institution. Students who consider an academic career and who are considered suitable by the faculty can decide to teach a tutorial for B.A. students instead or join other academic activities under supervision.								
Objectives	Students who did an internship know how the skills they have acquired during their studies can be used outside academia and which skills they may still lack. They have a better idea which line of work they might want to pursue after graduation. Students who taught a tutorial have gained pedagogical skills. They have learned to present and structure knowledge. Students who are aiming at a career in academia (PhD) can be involved in the whole spectrum of academic activities.								
Requirements for Credit Points / Grade	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type of Class</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>CH</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>Type of Exam</i>	<i>Duration of Exam</i>	<i>Type of Evaluation</i>	<i>Calculation of grade for Module</i>
	<i>Internship/Tutorial</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>ne</i>	<i>0</i>
Transfer	n/a								
Requirements for Participation	None								